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DATE(S) ISSUED:

08/14/2012

SUBJECT:

Vulnerability in Windows Common Controls Could Allow Remote Code Execution (MS12-060)

OVERVIEW:

A vulnerability has been discovered in Windows Common Controls that could allow an attacker to take complete control of a vulnerable system. Windows Common Controls are a set of interfaces that enable a user to interact with an application and are used by all supported versions of the Windows Operating System.

This vulnerability may be exploited if a user visits or is redirected to a specifically crafted web page. Successful exploitation could result in an attacker gaining the same privileges as the logged on user. Depending on the privileges associated with the user, an attacker could then install programs, view, change, or delete data; or create new accounts with full user rights.

SYSTEMS AFFECTED:

- Microsoft Office 2003
- Microsoft Office 2007
- Microsoft Office 2010
- Microsoft SQL Server 2000
- Microsoft SQL Server 2000 Analysis Services
- Microsoft SQL Server 2005
- Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Express Edition
- Microsoft SQL Server 2008
- Microsoft Commerce Server 2002
- Microsoft Commerce Server 2007
- Microsoft Commerce Server 2009
- Microsoft Host Integration Server 2004
- Microsoft Visual FoxPro 8
- Microsoft Visual FoxPro 9
- Visual Basic 6.0 Runtime

RISK:

Government:

- Large and medium government entities: **High**
- Small government entities: **High**

Businesses:

- Large and medium business entities: **High**
- Small business entities: **High**

Home users: High

DESCRIPTION:

A vulnerability has been discovered in Windows Common Controls that could allow an attacker to take complete control of a vulnerable system. Windows Common Controls are a set of ActiveX controls that enable a user to interact with an application. The vulnerable ActiveX control, TabStrip Control, is

contained in the MSCOMCTL.OCX file included as part of all affected versions of the Microsoft software.

ActiveX controls are primarily used as building blocks for developing software components for use across multiple systems, usually over the Internet. The ActiveX controls are responsible for providing functionality across multiple interfaces and often enhance a user's experience.

The affected ActiveX Common Control, when used in Internet Explorer, corrupts the system state in such a way that an attacker can execute arbitrary code on the system. This vulnerability may be exploited if a user visits or is redirected to a specifically crafted web page.

Successful exploitation could result in an attacker gaining the same privileges as the logged on user. Depending on the privileges associated with the user, an attacker could then install programs, view, change, or delete data; or create new accounts with full user rights.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The following actions should be taken:

- Apply the appropriate patch provided by Microsoft to vulnerable systems immediately after appropriate testing.

- Run all software as a non-privileged user (one without administrative privileges) to diminish the effects of a successful attack.

- Inform and educate users regarding the threats posed by hypertext links contained in emails or attachments especially from un-trusted sources.

REFERENCES:

Microsoft:

<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/security/bulletin/ms12-060>

CVE:

<http://www.cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2012-1856>

Security Focus:

<http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/54948>